The Descendants Of
John William Crock
and
Susan Catherine Kerns Crock
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Compiled by
Vicki Bidinger Horton

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For My Mom
PREFACE

I may have turned a molehill into a mountain. What started out to be a little research into the Crock family genealogy has turned into a larger research project. I thought it would be "fun" to do some research, since I had recently moved back to Hampshire County. Being that the Crocks were from Hampshire County and many continued to live in the county, I thought it would be no problem to go to the local library and courthouse to do a little research, as well as obtain information from those "Crocks" who continued to live in the area.

In the process of collecting information, I saw pictures of my great aunts and uncles that I had never known and had, up to that point, never seen pictures of these great aunts and uncles. I then had the thought that there were probably many more "cousins" who had not seen pictures of aunts/uncles, great aunts/uncles, as well as grandparents and great-grandparents. So, the little molehill got a little bigger as I began collecting pictures of the children of John and Susan Catherine Kerns Crock.

Very quickly I found, in the courthouse in Romney, the will of George Crock. George died in 1802 and mentioned in his will his wife "Barbary" and daughter, Ann Elizabeth. No mention of sons. In doing further research I discovered that there were two sons, John, who moved to Allegany County, Maryland and David, who moved to Knox County, Indiana. No longer was this a local research project.

In the courthouse and census records of Allegany County, MD, I discovered that John, son of George, had quite a large family. To date I have not been able to account for the completed family of John, but I am continuing to research this line. A few of the names that I am researching are: Twigg, Nixon, Hansrote, Wyman or Syman, and Bohrer.

This is an ongoing project that I have created for myself and any information that you would like to share regarding the Crocks' (and related families) genealogy will be appreciated.

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Chapter One

EARLY CROCKS

Records of Crocks living in Hampshire County, West Virginia, (Virginia) can be found in the Courthouse at Romney, WV as early as the late 1700's. Specifically, George Crock, ancestor of the current Crocks of Hampshire County and descendants, can be found buying land and having land surveyed in the late 1700's. In the census records of Hampshire County, George Crock is named as head of household with a total of six individuals. On July 13, 1794, George bought 506 acres on Spring Gap Run from John Copsey, a witness to this land transaction was George's son John. In another land transaction (1791) both sons of George, John and David, were witnesses listed on the deed.

Other than the land transactions, another document that may be found in the Hampshire County Courthouse is the will of George Crock. Herein may be found the additional name of his daughter, Ann Elizabeth "Betsy" and his wife Barbara "Barbary". Although the two sons, John and David, are not mentioned in George's will they are heirs-in-law later in 1807 when their sister "Betsy" dies intestate (no will). Having remained single, her brothers are now the heirs to her inheritance originally left to her by her father. There is no further mention of George's wife Barbary. By this date David has moved to Knox County, Indiana, having married Margaret Anthis and either followed or went with his in-laws when they migrated west. In the records is a letter-of-attorney that David has sent from Indiana giving his mother, "Barbary", power-of-attorney. Within these documents it is also mentioned that John is of Allegany County, Maryland. The inherited land, "lying on the road between Springfield and Frankfurt" is sold to John Lyon and recorded in the deed records in the year 1815. This is the last transaction of any of this family in Hampshire County.

Further research will be necessary to determine where the wife of George, Barbara, went after 1815. John can be found in the records of Allegany County, Maryland as early as 1810. The last record of John having lived in Hampshire County was in the year of 1805. The only other person that cannot be accounted for, to date, is the sixth person listed in the census records. It is possible that her name was Ruth "Ruthy" as there is a marriage record of "Ruthy" Crock who married Moses Wyman (Syman) in the year of 1807, in Allegany County, Maryland. More research will be necessary to verify this bit of information.

The Crock name does not appear in Hampshire County again until the 1830's. In the 1840 census Gabriel is listed with a total of six person in the household, living in the Bloomery district.

John Crock left Hampshire County, between the years of 1805 and 1810. He is listed in the 1810 census of Allegany County, Maryland, with two children under the age of 10 years and one male between 16 and 26 years of age; three female children under the age 10 and one female child between 10 and 16; as well, as himself, over 45 years and one female between 26 and 45 (his wife).

J. Thomas Scharf's History of Western Maryland contains minutes of a meeting of the Administration Party, held June 28, 1828, and listed as attending were John Crock, Sr. along with his sons, John Crock, Jr. and David.

The next pertinent piece of documentation may be found in Judgement Book #9, of Allegany County, MD, wherein Gabriel is listed along with his sister Rachel (who has married Simon Twigg) as heirs to land belonging to their deceased brother, David. This bit of information allows me to place Gabriel, David and Rachel as children of John Crock. David Crock is listed in the census of Allegany County, MD, but always alone, remaining single with no children.

What makes it so difficult in obtaining information from the census records prior to 1850 is that the only person listed by name is the head of household. The members of the household are listed only under age categories and under male or female. This leaves the question of what happened to the other members of John Crock's family. In 1850 the only Crocks listed in Allegany County are: David Crock; Rezin Crock with the following children: Joseph, Elizabeth, Richard, Fanny and Milly. This Elizabeth Crock married into the Hansrote family and moved to Morgan County, WV. Her brother Richard can be found in the 1870 census, also living in Morgan County, WV. After 1860 there are no more Crocks, except
As was often the case of many of the "country folk" of the 1800’s they could not read or write. Thus, there was no serious documentation regarding a person's birth date. The census records recorded a person’s age, but the census taker was only recording the information he was given. So often the individuals did not know, or care for that matter, when their birth date was, or how old they were.

Gabriel Crock was born around 1800. Perhaps as early as 1794 or as late as 1808. The notice of his death listed in the Hampshire Review on September 12, 1894, reads as follows:

"Death has again invaded our neighborhood this time in the family of John Crock who on last Thursday evening laid to rest his aged father Gabriel Crock who had lived out more than the allotted time, it is said he was 104 years old. He leaves three daughters and two sons to mourn this providential affliction."

Gabriel Crock, son of John Crock of Allegany County, Maryland, married Elizabeth Largent, daughter of Lewis Largent and Eleanor (Hull) Largent. Elizabeth was one of seven children. Largent is also an old Hampshire County family that has its origin in this country in the Carolinas from France. La Argent is the french word for silver.

Gabriel and Elizabeth first appear in the records of Hampshire County in the 1840 census. In the 1850 census Gabriel is listed with the following information:

Gabriel Crock, age 42, occupation - farmer; value of real estate owned: $400; place of birth: MD.  
Elizabeth, age 42; born in VA  
Milly, age 16; born in VA  
Thomas W., age 14; born in VA  
Mary J., age 12; born in VA  
Benjamin, age 10; born in VA  
John, age 7; born in VA  
Ann E., age 4; born in VA

In 1883 an agreement is recorded in the deed book between Gabriel and his son Benjamin. Benjamin should receive 185 acres after the death of Gabriel in return for the care of Gabriel. Also, in 1883, Gabriel and Benjamin deed to Ann E. (Crock) Brown, land in the same vicinity. This land is still under ownership of descendants of Ann E. (Crock) Brown. It is believed that this is the location of "the old homeplace" which burned down a few years back. This land which was deeded to Benjamin and Ann E. is located in Critton Hollow, between Sideling Hill and Spring Gap Mountain, near the Morgan, Hampshire County line. Those living on this "old homeplace" can remember there being a pear orchard there.

The fact that the Crocks were "orchard people" can be found throughout available information. Allegany County surveys of John and David Crock show listings of the different fruit trees and the numbers of each, as well as the tax amount assessed (personal property tax).

One of the last documented acts of Gabriel was the selling of his interest in the property in Allegany County, Maryland, (Oldtown area). This was sold to Preston Twigg, Gabriel's nephew. Preston was the son of Rachel, Gabriel's sister. It is interesting to note that the deed was witnessed by John Crock and William Earsom. He sold his interest which consisted of pieces of land called "Crabtree Chance, Appleby, Crock's Lot and Crock's Hill" for fifty dollars.
Children of Gabriel and Elizabeth Crock

Thomas W., oldest son of Gabriel and Elizabeth Crock, never married and drowned in the Potomac River near Paw Paw, WV in 1861 at the age of 25, as reported in a Largent Family Newsletter.

Amelia "Milly", was born in 1834. She married Elisha Powell.

Benjamin was born on June 9, 1840. He married Phoebe Belford on the 13th of April 1865 in Allegany County, MD. Benjamin and Phoebe had three children, one son who remained single and two daughters. One daughter died young leaving no descendants, and the other daughter married into the Bohrer family, descendants of which are now living in Jefferson County, WV.

John William. (See following chapter).

Mary Jane was born on June 11, 1838. She married Christopher Shanholtzer and remained in the Forks of Cacapon area of Hampshire County. Mary Jane and Christopher had three children - one son and two daughters. More information on this family, as well as a picture, can be found in the Shanholtzer Family Book, by Dr. Wilmer Kerns. (This book is in the Hampshire County Library in Romney.)

The youngest child of Gabriel and Elizabeth was Ann E. who married "Sage" Sedgwick V. Brown on March 13, 1867. They remained in the Critton Hollow area. Descendants of Ann and "Sage" can be found living today on "the old homeplace".

Thus, a little information on the background of the family of John William Crock, his parents, brothers and sisters. I am continuing the research on these descendants of Gabriel and Elizabeth (Largent) Crock. With the exception of the Powells, who moved to Ohio, I have been in contact with at least one descendant of each of the above children.
Chapter Two

JOHN AND SUSAN CROCK

John William Crock, son of Gabriel and Elizabeth (Largent) Crock, was born on the 25th of November 1844, at Spring Gap, Hampshire County, WV.

Susan Catherine Kerns, daughter of John William Kerns and Sarah Elizabeth (Dyche) Kerns, was born on the 1st of November 1858, at Springfield, Hampshire County, WV.

How or where John and Susan met is unknown. Several events leading to the meeting of John and Susan are possible. The area of Springfield, Middle Ridge, was starting new orchards at that time. Knowing that John was an Orchard laborer, perhaps he made a visit to the Springfield area for employment purposes and met Susan then. Another possibility is that there are Kerns families from the Critton Hollow area and perhaps Susan met John on a visit to her relatives. In fact, there is an old, very overgrown family burial plot on "the old homeplace". This burial plot contains many stone markers and only one tombstone with a legible name - Kerns.

John and Susan were married on the 15th of June 1875 in a ceremony performed by William D. Rees, in Romney.

In the 1880 census John and Susan, along with their two children, Mary Jane, age 3 and Sarah, age 1, are living four households away from John's father, Gabriel, in the Critton Hollow area. John is listed as a laborer and Susan as keeping house.

The first land transaction of John Crock was in 1893 when John purchased 160 acres from William Earsom. This land was in the "holler" and became known as "home" to the children of John and Susan.

On John Crock:

"He walked with a cane. The lightning hit his foot when he was working in the field when Redgie got hit by lightning. He would always have chocolate drops for us. He would go up to Mr. Jerry's and get them. We kids would be so glad when he would come down to Springfield and stay with us. He would go up to church to revival and we kids would be so glad to sit beside him. He kept a big old hickory stick on the porch. It would reach clear down to the ground from the porch."
Grandma read to Grandpap from the Bible everynight. She would sit in the rocking chair in front of the fireplace and read to him. He could not read or write.

- Georgia Crock Barb -

"Nice and patient with children. Whenever any of us, cousins, came he gave us candy; he was a rough man but he acted meaner than he really was."

- Paul Brown -

"He smoked a pipe and raised his own tobacco. He loved for Wes Taylor of Slanesville to play his fiddle. Grandpap would just sit and listen to him play.

Grandpap only went to school for three days. The first day he went, he got along okay with the teacher. The second day, he and the teacher got into a fuss about something. Grandpap had an awful temper. On the third day he went in early and piled up rocks and when the teacher came along he threw the rocks at him. That was the last time he went to school! Grandpap told me this story himself.

When lightning hit "Redgie" it also hit Grandpap. He was out cold for two hours. After that, he was nervous.

- Harry "Perk" Crock -

"Big man with a moustache. Acted like he would be grouchy, but he wasn't. He was nice. I remember my mom telling me about when he used to use, I guess it was a buggy whip, and mom told "Shank" to sit up straight in the chair and he would hit the chair and miss your back. So mom sat up straight and he hit the chair, but "Shank" bent over and got it!

He was strict with the kids, his, when they were young but he wasn't strict when he was older.

- Daisy "Duck" Taylor Stevenson -

"I remember when we came back from Illinois, I was about 8, he had a horse towing a sled and he would let me ride the horse. When he was sick before he died I would stay with him and at night I would give him his medicine.

- Leone Taylor Brown -

"I can remember going up to their house and Grandpap would walk into the bedroom and reach up over the door, I guess there was a shelf up there, and bring me down a piece of candy."

- Ruby "Sis" Crock Bidinger -

I have been told that John Crock would walk with his hands clasped behind his back and slightly bent forward. His son, John, also walked this way and that if you were looking at them from the back, you could not tell them apart.

On Susan Catherine (Kerns) Crock:

"I remember being there at her house one day and she sent Charlotte and Madalene out to the garden to get an onion. They came back with a potato. Grandma said, 'Dag-burn kids, don't know an onion from a tator!'"

- Irma Crock Fields -
"She was nice, everybody liked her. Everybody would come and stay there at her house after the dances. She never knew who or how many would be there for breakfast. So, I remember she would always make this great big pot of gravy for breakfast."

- Daisy "Duck" Taylor Stevenson -

"I remember her hair. She had the prettiest hair and she would let us comb it. You could comb it any way and it would stay that way. Even when she was sick she still had thick hair."

- Georgia Crock Barb -

"Perk was always sneaking out and going to Grandma's to eat. He would even sneak out and go eat breakfast there!

Grandma would always say she could never trust us kids any further than she could throw a bull by its' tail."

- Charlotte Crock Landis -

Or those who knew Susan Crock, when asked about her the first response was always "She was nice," or "The nicest person you would ever want to meet."
Chapter Three

MARY JANE "MINNIE" CROCK

Mary Jane "Minnie" was the first daughter of John and Susan Catherine (Kerns) Crock. She was born on September 3, 1876, in Hampshire County, WV. She died on December 24, 1940 at Green Spring, Hampshire County, WV, and buried at Forest Glen Cemetery, Green Spring, WV.

As they have the same name, Mary Jane "Minnie" was probably named after her father's sister, Mary Jane. A coincidence is that both of these Mary Janes married a Shanholtz (Shanholtzer). "Minnie married Britton Fahn Shanholtz on June 21, 1893 at Cumberland, Allegany County, Maryland. Britton was the son of Fahn Martin Shanholtz and Sarah Ann (Henderson) Shanholtz. Britton was a teacher, and "Minnie" a housewife.

From the Hampshire Review of March 1, 1894:

Britton Shanholtzer, who is teaching near Springfield, was in town Saturday and called and renewed his subscription. He informed us that he is having a pleasant school.

Mary Jane and Britton met when Britton was teaching school in the Springfield area. Apparently, John Crock and his daughter were close, as, initially, the marriage of Britton and Mary Jane was not well taken by "Minnie's" father. Britton "took his little Minnie away".

A statement of receipts and expenditures of the School Fund of Springfield District for the year ending June 30, 1896 indicates that B.F. Shanholtz was disbursed $23.00. Also under Building Fund: B.F. Shanholtz, building fires $1.00.

The children of Britton and Mary Jane "Minnie" (Crock) Shanholtz:


From the Hampshire Review of September 23, 1914:

Claude, a son of Britton Shanholtzer, of Middle Ridge, was married in Cumberland last week to Miss Mary Lease.
Children of Claude and Mary (Lease) Shanholtz:

1. A. Betty Rae, Married Thomas E. Hartman, Jr.

2. Charles Lee "Gabe" Shanholtz, born 19 October 1895; died 13 November 1966, Martinsburg, WV; buried at Forest Glen Cemetery, Green Spring, WV. Married Vergie May Self, daughter of John Self and Rachel A. (Kepler) Self.

Children of Charles and Vergie Shanholtz:

2. A. Maria Lyla, married Charles William Gardner.

3. Wilbur Jennings Shanholtz, born 8 May 1898; died 1 April 1986 at Cumberland, Maryland; buried at Forest Glen Cemetery, Green Spring, WV. Married Edna Lee Wagoner, daughter of Edward M. Wagoner and Betty P. (Starnes) Wagoner, on 24 September 1919 at Cumberland, MD. Wilbur was employed by the Koppers Company as a timber handler for 42 years before his retirement.

Children of Wilbur and Edna Shanholtz:


3.B. Hazel Irene, born 16 March 1922 at Green Spring; married Francis Deurr on 8 August 1945.


3.F. William Glen, born 22 September 1930; married Pat Wagoner on 29 June 1956.


4. Susan Pearl Shanholtz, born 7 March 1900. Married Harl Hamilton Cosner on 23 December 1920 at Cumberland, Maryland. Harl was the son of Columbus Cosner and Mary (Sears) Cosner; he died 5 May 1971 at Baltimore, Maryland. He was an electrician and worked for the Koppers Company.

Children of Susan Pearl and Harl Cosner:

4.A. Madalene Viola, born 30 October 1921 at Green Spring, WV; married Guy Q. Hull.

4.B. Beatrice Marie, born 10 May 1924 at Green Spring, WV; married Kenneth Irwin Willard.

4.C. Wanda Lee, born 22 February 1927 at Green Spring; died 29 June 1938 at Green Spring, WV. She was bit by a rattlesnake while picking berries.

5. Viola Myrtle Shanholtz, born 26 May 1902 Green Spring, WV; died 26 May 1976 at Baltimore City Hospital and is buried at Forest Glen Cemetery; married (1) Joseph M. Pence on 24 December 1923; (2) Sam Heironimus.

Children of Viola and Joseph Pence:

5.A. Joseph Blair married Francis Dove.

5.B. Joann married Dan Carlson.

5.C. Judy married Randy Richards.

5.D. Jacqueline married Albert Migan.

6. Thomas William Shanholtz, born 19 April 1904; died 23 September 1957 at Cumberland, Maryland; married Ruth Crites on 22 August 1923.

Children of Thomas and Ruth Shanholtz:

6.A. Mildred Virginia, born 18 April 1924; married (1) Bill Brooke; (2) Lloyd Simpson.


6.C. Alice Sarah, born 13 October 1929; married Benjamin Houdershell.

7. John Fahs Shanholtz, born 28 June 1905; died 4 September 1973; married Mary May Knicely on 10 March 1924 at Clarksburg, WV. Mary is the daughter of Wesley James and Purdie Ellen (Rogers) Knicely. Mary was born 11 May 1908 in Minnesota. John was employed by the Koppers Company, Green Spring, WV.

Children of John and Mary Shanholtz:

7.A. Wesley James, born 29 January 1925, Green Spring, WV; married Ann Browning on 25 March 1943.


7.C. Annabelle, born 23 December 1928, Green Spring, WV; married Marvin Clem 26 March 1947.

7.D. Britton Fahs, born 15 December 1933, Green Spring, WV; died 30 December 1933.


7.F. Mary Susan, born 23 November 1947, Green Spring, WV; married Charles Ray Hott, 10 July 1966.


9. Helen Marie Shanholtz, born 7 August 1914; married (1) Owen Roach; (2) Frank Lester Wallizer, son of Jesse and Margaret Wallizer. Frank was born 26 October 1907 and died 7 August 1980, buried at Forest Glen Cemetery. Frank and Helen were married 20 June 1953. Helen died 19 April 1991; buried at Forest Glen Cemetery, Green Spring, WV.

Children of Helen and Owen Roach:

9.A. Kay Frances Roach, born 3 October 1941, Cumberland, Maryland; married Jerry Paul Andrick

10. James Walter Shanholtz, born 10 May 1922, Green Spring, WV; married Ellen Ambrose, daughter of Winfield Scott Ambrose and Hazel Estella (Alt) Ambrose, on January 1944, Cumberland, MD. Ellen was born 18 September 1923 at Brunswick, Maryland.

Children of James and Ellen Shanholtz:

SARAH ELIZABETH "SALLY" CROCK

Sarah Elizabeth "Sally" is the second daughter of John and Susan Catherine (Kerns) Crock. She was born on February 4, 1879 in Hampshire County, West Virginia. She died on December 4, 1961, at Springfield, WV; buried at Springfield Hill Cemetery.

"Sally" married John Michael Taylor on December 27, 1899 at Cumberland, Maryland. John was born on August 5, 1876 and was the son of James William and Emma Florence (Click) Taylor. John died on November 29, 1967 at Cumberland, Maryland and is buried at Springfield Hill Cemetery, Springfield, West Virginia.

"Sally" was probably named after her mother's mother, as her name was also Sarah Elizabeth.

John worked at the stone quarry in Flintstone. He was a supervisor over the machinery. He also worked at the sand mine in the Springfield/Green Spring Valley. When this mine closed he apparently was "transferred" to Illinois. Upon returning to Hampshire County from Illinois he continued working, as a blacksmith. "Sally" was a mid-wife and was often called upon to "help" with local births.

"Aunt Sally could cook the best beans. Mary and me would dip the bread in the beans, and Sally would quarrel, but she was the nicest person."

"John Taylor got a pot out and filled it up with beans. He was going to cook while Sally was away, I guess at church. The beans swelled up and when Sally got back she said he had every pot in the house filled up with beans, including the teakettle!"

- Georgia Crock Barb -
"When I was little I was fat. Uncle Charlie said I walked like a duck. After that everyone called me "Duck". Even when I worked over at Kelly they called me "Ducky".

- "Duck" Daisy Taylor Stevenson -

"Aunt Sally came to church one morning and was just a grinning - showing off her teeth. She had been eating corn and broke her front teeth."

- Charlotte Crock Landis -

"John would sing the silliest songs, and he would get us kids to laugh. He would sing this laughing song where he would sing and then laugh and laugh. He would go on laughing for five minutes." Me, Ruby and Charlotte would walk over in Poland Holler on Sunday to church. When we got back Sally would have Sunday dinner ready. I think it was the best meal I ever ate, of course it could have been because we were hungry, but Sally was the best cook."

- Jean Landis Mulligan -

Children of John and "Sally" (Crock) Taylor:

1. Clara Virginia, born October 12, 1900, Springfield, West Virginia; married Herbert Meek on September 26, 1917 at Indiana. Herbert died June 12, 1961 and buried in Muncie, Indiana.

Children of Clara (Taylor) and Herbert Meek:


2. Daisy Elizabeth "Duck", born August 22, 1903 at Green Spring, WV; married John McKnight Cameron Stevenson October 10, 1928 at Cumberland, Maryland. John was born November 11, 1903 in Troon Aryshire, Scotland. He was the son of Gavin and Agnes Stevenson. John retired from the B & O Railroad and "Duck" retired from the Kelly.

Children of "Duck" (Taylor) and John Stevenson:


Children of John and Margaret Taylor:

3.A. Marion Gertrude, born January 31, 1926, Springfield, WV; married Harvey Denver Sachs, October 7, 1944 at Westernport, Maryland.


3.E. Shirley Mae, born December 12, 1933, Cumberland, MD; married John Herbert Squires, June 16, 1952, Cumberland, Maryland.


Children of Leone (Taylor) and "Boss" Brown:

4.A. Alma May, born May 8, 1935, Cumberland, MD; married Donald Kesner, January 1959, Cumberland, MD.

4.B. Judith Louise, born January 24, 1947, Cumberland, Maryland.

5. Ruby Grace, born July 3, 1913, Fairmont, Vermillion County, Illinois; died July 4, 1990, Cumberland, Maryland; married William Cranston Landis, son of Abraham Scott and Mary Ellen (Reed) Landis, on October 21, 1944 at Cumberland, Maryland. William was born on July 10, 1913 at Romney, West Virginia.

Children of William and Ruby (Taylor) Landis:

5.A. Bonnie Louise, born November 8, 1946, Cumberland, Maryland; married Robert Carl Dyer on July 12, 1968; died on May 24, 1984, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

5.B. Darlene Elizabeth, born December 9, 1950, Cumberland, Maryland; married Eugene R. Spencer October 19, 1968.

6. Mary Gertrude, born July 3, 1918, Springfield, WV; married Campbell Hensel McDonald, son of Isaac William and Bassie Davis McDonald, November 1939.

Children of Mary (Taylor) and Campbell McDonald:

6.A. John Isaac, born April 12, 1940, Springfield, WV; married Carol Ann Steger.

6.B. Edward Lynn, born August 18, 1946, Cumberland, Maryland.

Chapter Five

VIRGINIA AMELIA "SHANK" CROCK

"Shank" is the third daughter of John and Susan (Kerns) Crock. She was born on December 9, 1880 in Hampshire County, West Virginia. She died on May 3, 1948 at Wiley Ford, West Virginia, and is buried at Springfield Hill Cemetery.

"Shank" married Henry Climer Brown, son of John and Molly (Peters) Brown, on January 20, 1904 at Cumberland, Maryland. Climer, as he was called, was born on January 27, 1880 in Augusta, West Virginia, and is buried at Springfield Hill Cemetery.

Climer was a carpenter and "Shank" was a housewife. I have not been able to discover how the nickname "Shank" came about. I assume she got that name when she was little. She also was known as "Jenny", short for Virginia. It would seem that her father named her after another of his sisters, as he had a sister named Amelia "Milly".

"Aunt Shank was kind hearted. I can remember going there when she was sick. Paul could kid her into anything. He would say and do things that would get her giggling. He could get her to laugh when no one else could."

- Charlotte Crock Landis -

"Climer would play a home-made fiddle. He would play until Jenny would say, 'Will you put that thing away!'"

- Ellen Ambrose Shanholtz -

Children of Virginia (Crock) and Henry Climer Brown:

1. Walter Ellis, born October 10, 1904, Springfield, WV; died November 1916, buried at Springfield Hill Cemetery.

2. Virgie May, born December 8, 1909 at Springfield, WV; married Robert Melvin Powell, son of Charles and Stella (Powers) Powell on July 9, 1932 at Keyser, WV. Robert died October 3, 1969, Cumberland, Maryland and is buried at Sunset Memorial Park.
Children of Virgie May (Brown) and Robert Powell

2.A. Robert William, born June 15, 1939, Cumberland, Maryland; (1) Joan L. Snoots; (2) Patricia McDonald.

2.B. Susan Linda, born November 20, 1950, Cumberland, Maryland: married Dennie McCarty.


Children of "Tater" Lavada (Brown) and Theodore Nines:

3.A. Theodore Richard, born April 1, 1936, Cumberland, MD; married Audrey in 1955; Theodore died December 27, 1967.


4. Susan Mildred, born September 7, 1916 at Springfield, WV; married Stanley Cosner, son of Gilbert and Edna (Cutlip) Cosner on September 26, 1934 at Cumberland, Maryland. Stanley was born January 24, 1913 at Canaan Valley, West Virginia.

Children of Susan (Brown) and Stanley Cosner:


5. Paul Hampton, born January 26, 1910; married Carrie Pearl Mencer, daughter of Charles Ellsworth and Elsie Agnes (Miller) Mencer, on February 20, 1964, Baltimore, Maryland. Carrie was born July 30, 1914 at Cumberland, Maryland.

6. Eugene Stanley, born November 22, 1911; married Bernadine Anna "Bun" Alderton, daughter of Virgil and Beulah (Barnhart) Alderton. 'Bun' was born July 8, 1922 at Berkeley Springs, West Virginia.

Children of Eugene and "Bun" Brown:

6.A. Paul Virgil, born December 20, 1947, Cumberland, Maryland; married Betty Jean Stafford.


6.C. Vicki Marie, born February 26, 1954, Cumberland, MD; married Gary Salesky.
JOHN WESLEY CROCK

John Wesley Crock was the first son of John and Susan Crock. He was born on March 11, 1883 in Hampshire County, West Virginia. John died on April 3, 1950 at Cumberland, Maryland and is buried at Indian Mound Cemetery, Romney, West Virginia.

John married Irene Lee Lewis, daughter of Peter L. and Iona Etta (McBride) Lewis, on October 14, 1914 at Cumberland, Maryland. "Lee" was born on December 8, 1892, Higginsville, West Virginia.

From the Hampshire Review of October 21, 1914:

Marriage Licenses were issued in Cumberland last week to John Wesley Crock of Springfield, and Irene Lee Lewis, of Higginsville.

"John called Lee 'Diner'. He was a strict man, and not too much foolishness. He could have fun but it wasn't foolish fun. When he and Dad would go to church in the evening, and they had to go to work the next morning, when they thought it was time to be over Dad or Uncle John would stand up and say 'That's enough,' and then they would leave."

- Charlotte Crock Landis -

"I can remember when John would take us kids to the show in Romney. We would ride in the back of the pick-up truck. That was when it was at the Ben Franklin Store."

- Jean Landis Mulligan -

John retired from the Koppers Company and "Lee" was a midwife. Lee died on August 18, 1972 and is buried at Indian Mound Cemetery, Romney, West Virginia.

Children of John and "Lee" Crock:

1. Lonnie James, born September 28, 1917, Springfield, WV; died July 12, 1965, Romney, WV, buried Indian Mound Cemetery; married Juanita Virginia Hott, daughter of Benjamin Clarence and Vallie Mae (Poland) Hott, on May 2, 1940. Juanita was born December 19, 1922.
Children of Lonnie and Juanita Crock:

1. A. Lena, born December 8, 1940; married Dewey McDonald.

2. Pauline Iona, born October 28, 1919, Springfield, WV; died December 6, 1959, Springfield, Maryland; married Floyd Wayne Sulser, son of Burr Ellis and Lilian Gail Sulser, on March 30, 1940 at Kernstown, Virginia.

Children of Pauline and Floyd Sulser:

2. A. Alice Anne, born March 3, 1938, Springfield, WV; married Sammy Lee Riley.


3. Evelyn Lillian, born October 10, 1921, Springfield, West Virginia; married David Thomas Corbin, son of Joseph and Hattie (Simons) Corbin, on March 29, 1939 at Stevensville, Virginia. David was born June 26, 1917 at Romney, WV and died February 2, 1972, Cumberland, Maryland; buried at Ebenezer.

Children of Evelyn and David Corbin:


4. Lester Theodore, born March 7, 1925, Springfield, WV; died April 24, 1979 at Martinsburg, WV; married (1) Lena B. Chipps; (2) Louise Justice.

5. Betty Catherine, born June 10, 1927 at Springfield, WV; married George Charles Stewart, son of William Newton and Elsie Caroline (Moreland) Stewart, on May 7, 1949. George "Charlie" was born May 14, 1922 at Springfield, WV.

Children of Betty (Crock) and "Charlie" Stewart:

5. A. Ray Allen, born May 28, 1951; married Donna Dorsey.


6. Annabell Lee, born June 7, 1930 at Springfield, WV; married Milton Luther Davidson, son of Milton and Julia (Keckley) Davidson, on April 17, 1949 at Cumberland, MD. "Bobby" Milton was born on October 24, 1923 at Romney, WV.

Children of Annabell (Crock) and "Bobby" Davidson:

6. A. Randy James, born 24 June 1953.

Chapter Seven

THOMAS WALTER CROCK

Thomas Walter was the second son, fifth child, of John and Susan Crock. He was born on July 1, 1885, Hampshire County, WV. "Tom" died July 12, 1960, Romney, WV; buried Springfield Hill Cemetery.

Tom married Cleda Ethel Kimble Landis, daughter of Jason Kimble and Mahala Jane (Hedrick) Landis on August 17, 1914, Cumberland, Maryland.

Tom was probably named after his father’s brother, Thomas. Tom retired from the Koppers Company and Cleda was a housewife.

From the Hampshire Review of August 26, 1914:

A marriage license was issued in Cumberland last week to Thomas Walter Crock and Cleda Ethel Landes, both of Springfield.

"Dad, like most of the Crocks, was a tease. I remember one time us kids had been to church and when we came back Dad had made some cornbread, or cornpone, anyway, we were eating it and saying how good it tasted; when we finished eating it, Dad said, 'You all didn't eat that, it was for the dogs, I made it out of dishwater!'"

- Charlotte Crock Landis -

Children of Tom and Cleda Crock:

1. Harry Raymond "Perk", born January 5, 1915, Springfield, WV; "Perk's" nickname was given to him by Ollie Landis, because he was so perky. He married Rosa "Rosie" Susan Timbrook, daughter of Robert William and Sarah Jaminah (Oates) Timbrook, on September 6, 1946. "Rosie" was born April 1, 1919 at Kirby, WV

Children of "Perk" and "Rosie" Crock:

1. A. Sherrie Sue, born June 8, 1949, Springfield, WV.
1B. Myrna Rae, born May 19, 1951; married Robert William Linton, September 2, 1972, Charles Town, WV.

1C. Diane Kay, born November 9, 1952, WV; married Harry Richard Carroll October 5, 1984, Charles Town, WV.

2. Ruby Pearl, born May 21, 1917, Springfield, WV. "Sis" married James Harold Bidinger, son of Harry Reese and Anna Jane (Pyles) Bidinger, on 21 August 1937, Cumberland, Maryland. "Jim" was born April 11, 1917, Green Spring, West Virginia.

Children of "Sis" and Jim Bidinger:

2.A. Sylvia Stella, born February 2, 1941, Springfield, WV; married Lyle Ben Talbot April 10, 1982, Richmond, Utah.


3. Irma Lucille, born September 28, 1922, Springfield, WV; married Thomas Fields, son of Frank Paul and Catherine Price (Stickley) Fields, October 5, 1940, Cumberland, Maryland. "Tom" was born May 21, 1917, Springfield, WV.

Children of Irma (Crock) and Tom Fields:

3.A. Cletus Dwight "Tommy", born August 13, 1941, Springfield, WV.

3.B. James Allen, born April 19, 1943, Springfield; married Doris Pownall.


3.D. Connie Gail, born December 18, 1955, Cumberland, MD.

4. Charlotte Virginia, born April 12, 1926, Springfield, WV; married Oliver Raymond Landis, Jr., son of Oliver Raymond and Laura Bryan (Bean) Landis; April 7, 1951 at Winchester, Virginia. Raymond was born June 12, 1922 at Romney, WV.

Children of Charlotte (Crock) and Raymond Landis:

Chapter Eight

SAMUEL EDWARD CROCK

Samuel Edward was the sixth child of John and Susan Crock. He was born on August 29, 1887 at Springfield, WV. He died August 30, 1971, Romney, WV; buried Springfield Hill Cemetery.

"Sam" married Mary Edith Lambert, daughter of Howard Jesse and Edna Bell (Didawick) Lambert, on June 30, 1915, at Cumberland, Maryland. Edith was born December 26, 1899 at Springfield, and died May 9, 1971, Romney, WV; buried Springfield Hill Cemetery.

"It was in the fall or winter, just before deer season, when Sam played a trick on Abe, Perk and I think it was Jim Boor. I believe it was Abe who had killed a deer during the day and when it had become dark he, Perk and Jim went to get the meat. Sam had told them to blow out the lantern, so no one would see them, when they got back to the road. Sam waited until he thought they had had enough time to get the deer meat and left our house. I can remember him saying, 'Well, it's about time.' and he left but I don't remember who went with him. When Abe, Perk and Jim got back to the road, carrying the deer meat in sacks, they blew out the lantern. Sam was there waiting and about that time yelled out 'Halt!' Boy, did they scatter! They threw the sacks over the bank and ran in all directions! Later, they all had to go back to hunt for the sacks and find Jim Boor. Jim had gone upon the Cliff and hid and they couldn't get him down."

-Ruby Crock Bidinger-

Children Sam and Edith Crock:


Children of "Abe" and Alice Crock:

1. A. Samuel E. Crock.
1.B. Patricia A. Crock.


Children of Georgia (Crock) and Denver Kidner:

2. A. Denver Kidner, born April 10, 1941, Springfield, West Virginia.


Children of Bernadine (Crock) and Merwin Hast:


3.B. Mitzie S., born March 28, 1947 at Cumberland, Maryland; married Robert Serafin on December 30, 1981 at Cumberland, Maryland.

3.C. Melody J., born April 3, 1949 at Cumberland, Maryland; married Michael Harber, August 2, 1969 at Cumberland, Maryland.


3.E. Shane M., born March 11, 1956, at Cumberland, Maryland; married Deborah Campbell on August 14, 1985 at Fairfax, Virginia.

3.F. Michael W., born March 11, 1958 at Cumberland, Maryland; married Pamela Spies at Cumberland, Maryland.


Children of David and Nancy Crock:


5. Samuel Brittan, born April 1922, Springfield, WV; died June 30, 1924; buried at Springfield Hill Cemetery.
Chapter Nine

REGINALD BRATON CROCK

Reginald Braton was the seventh child of John William and Susan Catherine Crock. He was born on May 4, 1890 at Springfield, West Virginia. "Redgie" died on June 15, 1904 at Springfield; buried Springfield Hill Cemetery.

From the Hampshire Review of June 1904:

Obituary
June 15, 1904, Redgie Crock, aged about 15 years, third son of Susan and J.W. Crock, of Middle Ridge. Redgie was killed while working on W.M. Washington's peach orchard. He was a bright intelligent boy and will be greatly missed by his parents. The deceased leaves father and mother, ten sisters and brothers to mourn their loss. But may they feel great loss is his eternal gain and put their trust in Him who doth all things well. The remains were laid to rest in the Springfield Cemetery Thursday evening.

A Friend.
Chapter Ten

DAISY CATHERINE CROCK

Daisy Catherine was the eighth child of John and Susan Crock. She was born on June 22, 1893, Springfield, WV. She died May 10, 1948; buried at Springfield Hill Cemetery.

Daisy married James I. Logston, son of John and Margaret Ann (Stagg) Logston, July 17, 1912 at Fairmont, Vermillion County, Illinois. "Jim" was born in 1892 at Headsville, West Virginia; died May 1945, Springfield; buried Springfield Hill Cemetery.

"Daisy was a good housekeeper. I can remember being at her house one time and she was saying that she didn't have time to clean the house like she used to, and I remember thinking that it was already clean as a pen. I don't know how you could have gotten it any cleaner."

- Irma Crock Fields -

"I can remember going up to Daisy's and she would give us a quart of milk."

- Jean Landis Mulligan -

Children of Daisy (Crock) and Jim Logston:


Children of "Billy" and Audrey Logston:

2.A. Donna.

2.B. Lois.

2.C. Jack.

3. Leon Wanda "Dot", born January 30, 1932, Springfield, WV; married Arvel Hyder Raines son of Floris and Mamie (Fuller) Raines, on July 2, 1949, Cumberland, Maryland. Arvel was born March 30, 1928, Green Spring, WV. "Dot" received her nickname because of a special dress which she liked to wear all the time, when she was young. This dress had polka-dots, thus "Dot".

Children of "Dot" (Logston) and Arvel Raines:

3.A. Roger Lee, born December 19, 1949, Bethesda, Maryland; married Susan Behnke.

Chapter Eleven

CHARLES VERNON CROCK

Charles was the ninth child of John and Susan Crock. He was born on April 21, 1896 at Springfield, West Virginia. He died May 8, 1968 at Frostburg, Maryland; buried Rest Lawn Memorial Gardens.

Charlie married Edna Lean Hartman, daughter of James Henry and Martha (Roeder) Hartman on October 12, 1916 at Cumberland, Maryland. Edna was born January 14, 1898 at Upper Tract, Pendleton County, West Virginia. She died on July 28, 1983 at Flintstone, Maryland.

"Charlie" was a hard worker. When he moved to the Flintstone area he began an orchard. Later, he worked in the Baltimore area as a carpenter. Like the other Crocks, Charles was a tease and had been known to play his fair share of teasing jokes.

- Charlotte Crock Landis -

Children of Charles and Edna Crock:

1. Willis Vernon, born February 6, 1917.

2. Helen V., born October 8, 1919, Green Ridge, Maryland; married Richard Harrison Yonker, son of Rutledge and Martha Ellen (Ravenscroft) Yonker on June 16, 1935. Richard was born January 15, 1911, at Shaw, Maryland.

Children of Helen (Crock) and Richard Yonker:

2.A. Virginia Ellen Lena, born September 24, 1936, Cumberland, Maryland; died May 7, 1982, Flintstone, Maryland; married Thomas Edward Tribut.

3. Leona Mae, born February 28, 1922, Oldtown, Maryland; married Warren Jay Livingood, son of Harrison Azy and Ruth Alverda (Jones) Livingood, May 6, 1942, Hancock, Maryland. Warren was born March 5, 1921, Salisbury, Pennsylvania; died July 20, 1978, La Vale, Maryland..
Children of Leona (Crock) and Warren Livengood:


4. Roy Henry, born May 10, 1924, Polish Mountain, Oldtown, Maryland; married Margaret Lillian Feather, daughter of Harry Paul and Violet Alma (Shoemaker) Feather, November 27, 1945, Winchester, Virginia. Margaret was born November 24, 1926, King, Bedford County, Pennsylvania.

Children of Roy and Margaret Crock:

4.A. Dennie Wayne, born February 5, 1948, Roaring Spring, Blair County, PA; married Cheryn Lynn Miller, October 13, 1979, Pavia, Bedford County, PA.

4.B. Larry Richard, born August 20, 1953, Roaring Spring, Blair County, PA; married Pamela Kay Rightnour, January 15, 1977, King, Bedford County, PA.

5. John R., born August 5, 1925.

6. Hazel, born April 15, 1927; married Philip Barbe.

Chapter Twelve

EFFIE PEARL CROCK

Effie Pearl was the tenth child of John and Susan Crock. She was born on May 21, 1899 at Springfield, West Virginia; died February 13, 1963, Springfield; buried Indian Mound Cemetery, Romney, West Virginia.

Pearl married Emmett Samuel Landis, son of Abraham Scott and Rebecca (Alt) Landis, on December 15, 1923 at Cumberland, Maryland. Emmett was born November 24, 1900, Grant County, West Virginia; died April 3, 1976, Shanks, West Virginia; buried Indian Mound Cemetery, Romney, WV.

"Pearl was an easy-going person who was fun loving and she loved to dance. She and Emmett were like two kids together."
- Charlotte Crock Landis -

Children of "Pearl" (Crock) and Emmett Landis:

1. Norman Blake, born March 16, 1925, Springfield, West Virginia; married Anna Iris Haines, daughter of James Bruce and Eliza Ellen (Dorsey) Haines, on August 16, 1946, Cumberland, Maryland.

Children of "Normie" and Iris Landis:


Children of Geraldine (Landis) and James Mullin:


Children of Geraldine (Landis) and Robert Ellsworth:


3. Jean Catherine, born June 1, 1930, Springfield, WV; married Vernon Russell "Gabby" Mulligan, son of Vernon and Lulu (Lancaster) Mulligan, on September 25, 1948, Cumberland, Maryland. "Gabby" was born June 21, 1921, Frostburg, Maryland.

Children of Jean (Landis) and "Gabby" Mulligan:

3.A. Lydia Kathleen, born April 2, 1949, Cumberland, Maryland; married John L. Dennison.


3.D. Pamela Joyce, born August 6, 1954, Cumberland, Maryland; married David Spencer.
Chapter Thirteen

WILLIAM McKinley Crock

"Bill" was the eleventh child of John and Susan Crock. He was born December 4, 1901, Springfield, WV; died June 8, 1930, Moorefield, WV; buried Springfield Hill Cemetery.

"Bill" married Lillie E. Lewis, daughter of Peter L. and Iona Etta (McBride) Lewis, on December 26, 1923, Cumberland, Maryland. Lillie was born on March 1, 1897, Hampshire County, WV; died October 8, 1924, Springfield; buried Three Churches, WV.

"Mom used to bake cakes for Dad's lunch. Bill would come there, to the house, and eat the cake. So, Mom would hide them. One time she hid the cake in the flour sack but wouldn't you know it, he found the cake.

He would call Grandma 'Suze' when he wanted to tease her.

There was a time when Bill and his friend (it might have been Johnny Taylor), had an old car, and they brought it up in front of our house and it stopped. They were trying and trying to get it started, but couldn't. So, finally they gave up trying to get it started. They were just sitting in the car when all of a sudden the car started on its own."

- Ruby Crock Bidinger -

Children of Bill and Lillie Crock:

1. Clara Madeline, born February 15, 1924, Springfield, WV; died November 4, 1975, Springfield, WV; buried Springfield Hill Cemetery; married Chalmer James Poor, son of William Morrell and Mary Madaline (Kilcoin) Poor, on January 22, 1943, Cumberland, Maryland.

Children of Madaline (Crock) and "Jim" Poor:

1.A. James W., born April 8, 1944; died January 3, 1945.


Chapter Fourteen

NELLIE RUTH CROCK

Nellie Ruth was the twelfth child of John and Susan Crock. Nellie was born on August 3, 1904, Springfield, WV; died December 13, 1961, Cumberland, Maryland; buried Forest Glen Cemetery, Green Spring, West Virginia.

Nellie married Richard Lee Foley, son of Noah and Jennie (Foltz) Foley, on January 2, 1923, Cumberland, Maryland. Richard was born March 23, 1892, Mt. Jackson, Virginia; died January 14, 1981, Cumberland, Maryland; buried Forest Glen Cemetery, Green Spring, West Virginia.

"Nellie was a happy person, always laughing, but she was strict too. She was a good neighbor, good mother, and she was good hearted. She liked to visit home a lot. She was a homebody."

- Charlotte Crock Landis -

Children of Nellie (Crock) and "Dick" Foley:


   Children of Richard and Helen Foley:
   
   1.B. Michael Ray, born June 25, 1958, Troy, N.Y.

2. Margie Katherine, born September 14, 1927, Springfield, Hampshire County, West Virginia; died June 9, 1990, Cumberland, Maryland; buried Forest Glen Cemetery,
Green Spring, West Virginia; married Ira W. Hott, son of Homer Jetson and Gertrude French (Haines) Hott, on March 6, 1948, Cumberland, Maryland.

Children of Margie (Foley) and Ira Hott:


3. Thomas William, born September 14, 1927; died September 1927.


Children of Ray and Peggy Foley:

4.A. Allen.

4.B. Pete
Chapter Fifteen

THE KERNS SCHOOL

In the late 1800's and early 1900's school houses were more than just school houses. They were an integral part of the community. A meeting house, a Sunday school house, a revival meeting house and any other community function that required a structure, such as voting.

The Kerns schoolhouse, so named because of the trustee, John Kerns, was such a part of the community. Not only was it used as a school house but I have found through copies of the Hampshire Review "preaching notices".

Adequate records are not available for the districts of the county. One room schools were constructed throughout the county. This made it possible for children to be within a few miles of a school and therefore, walk to school. Much can be said for the one room school. In some ways it was more difficult for teachers, teaching all eight grade levels, and in other ways easier, as the older children could help with the younger ones.

Much emphasis was put on reading, writing, arithmetic and spelling therefore, basic skill and knowledge were effectively taught.

From the Hampshire Review of September 21, 1910:

Rev. Wm. Smoot of Spring Gap, will preach at Kern's School House on Middle Ridge, at 10:30 AM next Sunday.

About 1907 the Kern's School, which was then made of logs burned down. The re-construction of the school was by contractor J.R. Dickey.

From the Hampshire Review of October 9, 1907:

The Kerns School House is nearing completion, J.R. Dickey contractor.

From the Hampshire Review of September 24, 1893:

To teach at Kerns' John N. Haines.
From the Hampshire Review of October 5, 1910:

The Kerns School opened Monday, Mr. Albert Ewers, of Points, in charge.

A brief description of the Kerns School House:

"There was a wood stove. Out back there was a coal house and during the day coal was burned in the stove. There was a hand pumped well for water; an outhouse out back; slates and slate pencils were used; Mary 'Sim' and Audrey Hartman painted the 'blackboard' on the wall."

Some of the teachers were:

Walter Singhass, John Haines, and Flora Morgan.
Janitors: Jess and Sally Shanholtz.

From the Hampshire Review of September 23, 1914:

A Sunday school picnic was held at Kern's school house Saturday. The weather was ideal for the occasion and a very large crowd was in attendance.

From the Hampshire Review of December 17, 1913:

I beg to submit the following report of the Kerns school of Springfield district, for the second month of school beginning Nov. 10th and ending Dec. 5th. Number of pupils enrolled, boys 4, girls 8, total 12. Per cent of attendance, boys 97, girls 88, total 90. Those present every day were Izora, Owen and Walter Brown and Nellie Crock. Those absent one day were Muril, Nellie and Raymond Brown and Willie Crock. I wish to thank the patrons of the school for the interest they are taking in the cause of education, and we invite them in to inspect our work. As this is my second term in succession of the above said school I can frankly say that the patrons are very much interested in the work and all play an active part along the line of education.

B A Bennett, Teacher
Chapter Sixteen

TIDBITS

"I remember the Grace's had a gander and he would chase you. One day when Leone and I were walking there, I told her I wasn't going to run anymore. When that gander came running after us, I grabbed it by the neck. That goose didn't run after use anymore!"

- Daisy "Duck" Stevenson -

From the Hampshire Review of November 26, 1896:

One of the John Crocks' sons cut his leg one day last week. Dr. Shipe was called in and had to put in nine stitches. At this time he is doing very well.

[Does anyone know which son this was?]

"Boob (Bernadine Grace Crock) got her nickname from Abe. Boob McNut was a character in the funny papers. Me, Abe and Dad were on the porch. Abe was reading the funny papers when Boob came out. Abe said she looked like Boob McNut. Well, she screamed and hollered and that made Abe keep calling her Boob, and it stuck."

- Georgia Crock Barb -

From the Hampshire Review of April 29, 1914:

APRONS PREVENT WRECK

Misses Cleda Landis and Lee Lewis, of Ridgedale, saved train No. 55 on the Romney branch from running through a burning bridge Wednesday by flagging it with their aprons. The train was flagged at Bridge 14A about half a mile below Ridgedale.

The wooden bridge spanning the South Branch of the Potomac, a short distance above Bridge 14A was a fire. The girls had been fighting the fire for over an hour, but they could not check it.

Knowing the train would soon be due they rushed down the track and flagged it with their aprons. With the assistance of trainmen and others the girls then extinguished the flames. The bridge had to be repaired before it was thought safe for the train to pass over it.
From the Hampshire Review of March 13, 1912: (Neighborhood Notes)

John Crock and William Horn attended the birthday party at P.L. Lewis’.

From the Hampshire Review of February 14, 1912: (Neighborhood Notes)

Sam Crocks is suffering with frosted ears.

From the Hampshire Review of October 25, 1911: (Neighborhood Notes)

Middle Ridge
Cutting corn, hunting and gathering chestnuts is the order of the day here. Wm. Horn and Samuel Crox returned the 18th from a month’s visit in the northern part of Illinois. Samuel Crox was threshing buckwheat last week with his gasoline rig. E.G. Ruckman of Purgitsville, is here running a saw mill for Isaac Hartman. Isaac Hartman had his engine at R.M. Washington’s filling his silo, finished Wednesday of last week. Marvin Harmison and Ed Mayhew killed a fine deer on the ridge Monday of last week. Hampshire Middle Ridge Orchard Company is building some dwellings and putting up some concrete work. John Brown will commence his new house on the Kern’s place the first of next month. James Brown has been very sick but is thought he is some better. We are informed John Crox has purchased a new organ for his daughter, Miss Daisy. We are informed Andy Horn will move to the Washington and Crox Orchard to work for the company. T.D. Hartman and son will move his saw mill to the Blue place first of this week to saw a lot of pine. Mrs. Ephraim Brown has purchased of John Taylor his house and lot near here. Mrs. John Taylor and family will leave soon for the northern part of Illinois to join her husband who has secured employment there.

From the Hampshire Review of February 7, 1912: (Neighborhood Notes)

Middle Ridge
Wilbur Shanholtz is complaining with a very sore foot. We are informed that B.F. Shanholtz has purchased an organ for his daughter, Pearl. Hauling ties seems to be the order of the day. The young people around here have been attending revival services in Springfield the past two weeks.

From the Hampshire Review of June 11, 1930:

William Crock, a resident of Middle Ridge, across from Ridgedale, was killed driving his car near Moorefield Sunday afternoon. A lady driving behind him, the only witness to the fatal accident, said he was not driving fast when his car instead of turning at a curve went straight over a bank turning over several times. His remains were taken to Racey’s undertaking establishment at Romney. Funeral services in Springfield Tuesday with interment on The Hill. Mr. Crock was a widower, the support of his aged mother and little daughter, at the time of whose birth the mother died about six years ago.

From the Hampshire Review of November 24, 1926:

Report of Springfield School
This is a report of the Springfield graded school for the second month ending November 5th. They following pupils were neither absent nor tardy during the month:
First and second grades, Mrs. F.H. HeiskeU, teacher:
Sam Alkire, Raymond Adams, Jake Brown, Tommie Crock, Bobby Davis, Billy Martin, Robert Pownell, Hellis Swisher, Pauline Crock, Georgia Crock, Hilda Lewis, Helen Parsons, Mary Sue Wagoner, Ruby Wagoner.

Third and Fourth grades, Miss Eleanor Patton, teacher:

Fifth and sixth grades, Miss Irma Northcraft, teacher:

Seventh and Eight grade, Homer K. Loy, teacher:
James Ansel, Billy Singhass, Harry Crock, Ralph Logston, Helen Ansel, Clara Doman, Imelda Fields, Mary Sue Heath, Maxine Wagoner.

"Mom would never let us kids out of sight, except one time. We were at a reunion and Johnny Taylor brought some orange gin. Well, Mom, Sally, and Daisy got to drinking that gin and then they didn't pay a bit of attention to us kids and we got to do anything. We were having fun."

- Jean Landis Mulligan -

"Aunt Pearl, Aunt Daisy and Aunt Sally and all of us were down at a reunion or picnic and they got kind of tipsy. They told me not to say anything, but they were giggling and having fun! Everybody knew."

- Charlotte Crock Landis -

"I remember being at a picnic one time and Aunt Pearl and I went to the bathroom. Aunt Pearl took a bottle out of her pocketbook or pocket, and took a little drink. She said, 'Don't tell anyone.' But, everyone knew."

- Ruby Crock Bidinger -

From the Hampshire Review of December 29, 1926:

John W. Crock, aged 82, lifelong resident of Ridge Dale Section of Middle Ridge, died at his home December 23rd. Funeral Christmas morning at the Methodist Church, conducted by Rev. C.B. Larrick. Interment on the Hill and was in charge of N.B. Guthrie. Mr. Crock is survived by his wife, the daughter of the late John W. Kerns, and number of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

From the Hampshire Review of October 8, 1941:

The death of Mrs. Susie Kerns Crock, widow of John Crock, which occurred at her home in the Kerns neighborhood September 26 removed from the neighborhood the most elderly woman, which was named for the ancestors of Mrs. Crock. She was 83 years and 10 months of age, was the mother of 12 children, 9 of whom are living, with 50 grandchildren and 40 great grandchildren. Her funeral services, conducted by Rev. Mr. Rockwell, were held in the Presbyterian church, which was filled beyond its seating capacity. The floral designs were many and gorgeous. She was held in high esteem among women, lived her life in the community in which she was born, possessed a most cheerful disposition and a kind heart. Burial was on the Hill beside her husband.
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